

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

BY BEN KINIRY, ESQ.

When I first moved back to the State of New Hampshire, I interviewed at several law firms in the greater area. I did not however, find a good fit for me. Why? First, I knew I wanted to continue to specialize in *Trusts and Estates*, or what is also often referenced as *Estate Planning*. As you have learned from reading these articles, within Estate planning there is also a relatively new sub-specialty called *Elder Law*, which only a handful of Estate Planning attorneys practice. Second, I have never really wanted to work for a larger firm, but rather a boutique firm focused in these practice areas, as I did in Connecticut.

Why a boutique firm? The technical demands placed upon attorneys practicing Estate Planning and Elder Law are great. Having a focused team would logically be a great way to both keep up with the law and to provide competent and timely professional services. Larger firms practice in many areas of the law and my preference is to be focused in these areas. Also, my level of involvement in a smaller firm places me in a better position to ultimately impact my clients in many respects.

Over my years of practicing law, I have come to realize that clients receive a great personal benefit when a proper estate plan has been developed for them and that a good Estate Planner/Elder Law Attorney "earns their keep" for the client many times over by creating an appropriate plan. These truths are limited, however, by the overall competence of the Attorneys involved and firm culture. Since I have always desired to perform at my very best, I have concluded that being a part of a similarly focused team will only improve my ability to serve my client's planning needs.

The Right Fit

Mid last year I was surprised (and ultimately pleased) to receive a phone call from Attorney John E. Laboe of Bow. John, and his partner, Kerri S. Tasker, are the founding partners of Laboe & Tasker, PLLC located in Concord. John relayed to me that they were also aware of my presence in the community from the time I moved back



from Connecticut and they came to realize that we shared the same commitment to client service and to technical excellence that this area of the law demands. They proposed that we could commence building a "professional acquaintanceship."

I accepted the offer. Why, you ask? Since arriving back in New Hampshire I have had numerous opportunities to interact with both John and Kerri at social and educational events. From these interactions and my personal observations, it was clear to me that John and Kerri are well respected by their peers and are sought out as authorities on difficult questions of law in the Trust and Estates community.

Thereafter, while I continued to maintain my separate practice, I integrated myself into the daily client work at Laboe & Tasker and in the end our initial mutual impressions of each other were confirmed.

What I Learned About Laboe & Tasker

Attorneys John Laboe and Kerri Tasker, have been part of the same law practice for about 12 years. They share a philosophy and outlook about the role estate planning lawyers should have in their communities; specifically, that the law is intended to serve the needs of everyone in the community. Both John & Kerri believe that in the area of "estate planning," there is an immense amount of good that can be derived from the proper use of the law and their primary goal is to harness the law to best serve the wants and needs of their clients.

Moving Forward

I'm now pleased to report that I'm a part of the Laboe & Tasker

LABOE & TASKER PLLC

Law Firm. John, Kerri and I are now working as an integrated team. We collaborate with each other every day to assure that our clients get the very best we can offer.

What is the Fate of These Articles?

I have enjoyed writing these articles and the questions I receive in response to them. So these writings were certainly a consideration in my move to Laboe & Tasker. You will be glad to know we intend to continue this monthly writing to educate all of you regarding the world of Elder Law, Trusts and Estates and Probate Law.

Perhaps, someday, John and/or Kerri will be writing in my stead and you will get to know them, as you have come to know me.

Introduction to John Laboe

I want to take this opportunity to introduce you to John (next month I will introduce you to Kerri S. Tasker). Following are some highlights regarding John.

John E. Laboe received a B.A. from Boston College, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and then graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center with his Juris Doctorate in 1979. His practice areas are Business Planning; Estate Planning; Elder Law; Medicaid Planning, Trust and Estate Administration; Taxation, Litigation; Administrative Agency Appeals and Real Estate.

John counsels businesses, families and individuals in the topic areas of business planning and estate planning, together with providing advice and representation in the closely related areas of taxation and real estate. The formation and operation of charitable entities is included in John's scope of practice. John

also has an extensive background in litigation and administrative agency appeal work related to these topic areas.

John is well known for his presentations on topics such as Applying for Medicaid and Medicaid Eligibility, Business Succession Planning Using the LLC, Undue Influence in Transactions with the Elderly. John has also authored a number of publications such as the following:

Protecting the At-Home Spouse from Nursing Home Costs: Annuitizing the Spend-down, NH Bar News, Vol. 20, No. 4, September 18, 2009. (Co-authored with Kerri S. Tasker, Esq.)

John's passion for helping his clients has been recognized by his peers. John was presented with the Outstanding Chapter Member Award in 2010. In 2012 he was the recipient of the "Ann N. Butenhof Award." Both awards were presented to him by the NH Chapter of NAELA in recognition of his distinguished service and dedication to the Chapter and Elders in New Hampshire. John has been involved in our greater community both in regards to the law and his Christian faith. He is a Trustee on the Board of Trustees for the New Hampshire Supreme Court Society; member of the Christian Legal Society (National and NH Chapters); Member of the Religious Education Planning Committee, Christ the King Parish, Concord, NH; and actively involved in whole community catechesis.

I'm hopeful that those of you who continue to read these articles will come see us when you make the decision to seek out legal counsel regarding your personal family affairs.

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